



April 2010



Members of the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, activated in support of Operation RISING WATER, fill thousands of sandbags on March 31, 2010 to be used in impacted areas threatened by flooding during recent rain storms.

(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)



Col. James J. Keefe

AIRSCOOP

**104th Fighter Wing
Barnes Air National
Guard Base**

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01085

Wing Commander
Col. Robert T. Brooks, Jr.

Vice Wing Commander
Col. James J. Keefe

**Command
Chief Master Sergeant**
Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

Chief of Staff
Lt. Col. Mike Cousins

Wing Executive Staff Officer
Maj. Matthew T. Mutti

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Mary L. Harrington

Photo and Graphic Support
Senior Master Sgt. Rob Sabonis
Public Affairs - Multimedia

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Vice Commander's Column

By Col. James J. Keefe

Practice makes perfect. That adage holds true, whether you're talking about sports, music, or operational readiness. It seems like all we do is practice, but this practice has been paying off (case in point, the successful AFE). The practice has also allowed all of us a chance to shake off the dust and work through a process that has not been exercised in a few years. At last count, our Phase I ORE in April/May will be only the third one in 5 years! We have not taken a MAJCOM ORI in 12 years!

So what areas are we still looking to fix or polish? To be honest, a lot of our issues circle around a few themes, one is personnel readiness, and I am not speaking about the office in building one. All unit personnel, tasked to deploy or not for this exercise, need to focus on their own personal readiness. From Immunizations, Dog Tags, current ID cards, updating Emergency Data Cards, and filling out the Pre-deployment Medical Questionnaire; all members should be sure they are ready to deploy.

I cannot emphasize enough how critical personnel readiness is to the success of our exercise. It is personnel's job to identify and fix discrepancies with the members processing to deploy and every discrepancy takes time to correct; each stall in the machine affects every member waiting to deploy. In an ideal world, personnel would find 0 problems, in turn, the process would take only a few hours, but add in a handful of errors, and that time doubles very quickly.

The other area we need to polish is

familiarization with the deployment processes. Moving and preparing cargo, packing personal bags, wearing PPE (to include reflective belts), working out of a simulated deployed environment; all these aspects are not common, and will take time to become familiar with. The SMART PACK that all members should carry in their hip pocket has many memory-joggers, and is a great resource, but you have to have one to use it. Please print one off during this drill and study the information. If you don't have one, please contact your UDM (Unit Deployment Manager).

Remember practice makes perfect, so train like it's the real thing and we will be well on our way to an "Outstanding" rating. We only have 2 more opportunities to practice before the big game, so let's make this one count!

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Command Chief Master Sgt.'s Column

By Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale

I'm going to throw a few clichés at you, "Attitude is Everything", "Effort plus Attitude equals Success", "If you can't change your fate, change your Attitude". Do you know how a phrase becomes a cliché, it is used over and over again... ironically, the reason they are said over and over again is because they are **true**. I hope that when you read this, you will realize that I am not trying to lull you to sleep with catch phrases, but that I actually mean what I am saying and hope you will internalize this message.

When we come to work every day, we all have a unique opportunity to defend our country. If you look around and take notice, the mem-

bers of this unit are part of unique segment of society and for that reason, our responsibility is awesome. Through dedication and a positive mental attitude, the impossible has become possible.

Case in point, this weekend we will officially celebrate the ribbon cutting for 3 new facilities that did not come to be without a large amount of effort. When the Commander of First Air Force, Maj Gen Dean or the Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, Maj Gen Moisio travel to Barnes for an event such as this, their actions speak louder than their words ever could. "Attitude is everything". These events show that with dedication and positive attitude, what seemed impossible is now possible.

I charge each and every one of you to look at your attitude as the single

most important asset you can bring to the fight. It doesn't matter if it's sitting on a 24/hr alert mission or processing for 4 hours through a PDF line, your attitude can carry you to success.

I am so proud of the hard work shown over the past 5 years, helping us to safely reach this important milestone. We are actively supporting the homeland defense mission as well as preparing to demonstrate our expeditionary capabilities through an upcoming phase I Operational Readiness Inspection. As we continue to work toward being the most respected F-15 unit in the combat Air Force, remember that "Attitude is Everything".

Safety: How Goes It!

By Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Dumais

The following were reported to Safety's injury and mishap reports since our last update. The key point to take away from these is that both could have been prevented with better situational awareness and personal risk management.

March 2010

Injuries

Worker injured; Finger impaled by safety wire; Situational awareness; Greater than 1st aid

Participant injured; Broken ribs; Fell off water obstacle; Lost time

Mishaps

None (Great Job!)

Now that spring is here so are Motorcycles and riders who ride them. If you are a rider, take it slow and use your experience and training to help you stay safe. If you are a 4-wheel vehicle operator, now is the time for you to put down that cell phone and DRIVE!



Something as simple as a quick lane change can be devastating or fatal to a bike rider who can't avoid your move. Between the rider looking out for the car and the car looking out for the bike, everyone should be OK. It is when we have a brief lapse in this relationship, the minor fender bender results in a bike rider getting injured. After all, if the person on a bike is hit by another vehicle, they become the fender in the fender bender! Motorcycles are everywhere and so are cars! Drive safe in whatever your drive!



First Sgt.'s Column

By Master Sgt. Art Rief, Maintenance First Sgt.

The alarm went off at 5 am on Sunday morning. Blurry eyed I hit the snooze button and continued my dream of flying the 15 over the mountainous regions over Afghanistan. BEEP BEEP BEEP!!!! I got warning tones and a SAM light! I dispense counter measures and start evasive maneuvers! BEEP BEEP BEEP!!! Damn it!... It's not the plane or the Missile heading my way. It's the damn ALARM CLOCK again. I get up slowly and head for the shower as reality starts sinking in.

What day is it? Why am I awake so early on a Sunday? Oh yeah, the parade. The St Patrick's Day Parade has been fun in the past and I hope for more of the same. After my usual morning routines I am in the car and headed for Barnes.

The gathering time is 0930 in the clinic parking lot. Someone has brought in a few boxes of Joe from Dunkin Donuts. I am appreciative and soon that familiar energy is coming back. Infused with caffeine my enthusiasm is improving. We have a good group of people and some cool vehicles. This should be a good time.

At the staging area for the parade we meet people from all over. A Pearl Harbor Veteran was there with stories of that fateful day in 1941. Students from the Massachusetts Mari-

time Academy explained to me the classes they take and what they hope to be when they grow up. I wished them luck with that, as I am 45, and still trying to figure that one out. Police from the surrounding towns are always good to meet and make friends with. You never know when you might run into them again. A group of Vietnam Veterans were on hand for the good time the parade always presents. U.S. Senator Scott Brown showed up unexpectedly and was shaking hands and having photos taken. School buses arrived loaded with marching bands from just about every high school in Western Mass. Kids were beaming with excitement, some seemed apprehensive, hoping they wouldn't screw up. All too soon the parade was starting.

As I walked along with the vehicles I quickly got caught up with the excitement of the crowd. Although I kept my military bearing, and passed on the offers of beers and shots, I did "High Five" about two hundred kids, received about ten hugs from enthusiastic women, got invited to four parties, met some old friends, had my picture taken with several groups of party goers, waved to TV22, noticed the unusually high number of Pit Bulls in Holyoke, laughed at Dickie Duquette's big green furry hat, shook hands with hundreds of grateful people thanking us for what we do, met

some proud parents whose sons and daughters recently joined, waved to everybody and smiled the whole way.... such a good time is worthy of the above run-on sentence.

Back at the NCO Club the marchers exchanged stories and enjoyed the pizza and beverages provided by the Officer's Club. Someone had mentioned that the parade was still going and that we could probably march again that day. I changed into my civilian clothes and it was time to go to a couple of the parties I was invited to.

Later that night I dreamed of flying my F-15 in a parade fly-over. BEEP BEEP BEEP! Another warning tone and SAM light, Damn it!

Every year the base is looking for people to volunteer to march in parades such as the St Patrick's Day Parade, the Memorial Day Parade, the July 4th Parades and the Big E Parade. If you have marched, thank you and tell your 104th friends and co-workers to come along. It is a great way to interact with the community and people from the other side of the base.

History of the F-100 Memorial ~ Part VIII

By Army Spc. Lisa Pauli

Maj. John Southrey of Granby, Connecticut died when his jet collided with another jet near Wells, New York on September 17th, 1986. The pilot of the other plane, Michael Kohut, of Chicopee, Mass., survived the crash after being transported to Albany Medical Center Hospital with a frac-

ture of the lower back. The two A-10s collided over wells, NY while enroute to the Ft Drum range in NY. Southrey joined the 104th in June of 1986 after serving nine years in the U.S. Air Force. A 1977 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. On one of his first assignments he served as

a flight commander at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School at Nellis AFB, Nevada. At the 104th he served as the chief of the Stan/Eval section.



Operation Rising Water

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

Over 1000 members of the Massachusetts National Guard answered the call to duty in response to the historic floods of March 2010. Soldiers and Airmen worked diligently in the driving rain for over four days and nights to assist residents of the communities impacted by the cresting waters.

Members of the 104th FW, 212th EIS (Engineering Installation Squadron) and the 126th Army BSB (Brigade Support BN) were bivouacked at the 101st Eng BN in Whitinsville during the operation. Guardsmen deployed from the armory in teams over the course of the week in support of operations in South Central Massachusetts. Most Guardsmen were tasked with filling and deploying sandbags to locations in danger of being flooded.



The residents of Blackstone came out in force to watch Airmen attempt to stem the rising crest of the Blackstone River. The assembly line formation of members began at the end of a truck full of sandbags and snaked toward the bank. The rapid torrent of the river created a din that compelled guardsmen positioned on the banks to shout in order to be heard.

During the operation, Guardsmen from different shops were seamlessly integrated into a cohesive unit allowing residents a close look at the Soldiers and Airmen in action. "The flood condi-

tions the way they are-it is good to get some assistance. The town can't keep up with everything and I am glad the Guard is here," said Brian Bernia of Blackstone.



The teams covered several sites and the running joke was that the mission would be accomplished after "One more."

Jane Woolford of Blackstone was grateful to see help arrive to help staunch the flow of water in her basement. "I want to thank the National Guard-they came to our rescue," she said.



Cots lined the drill shed floor side by side to accommodate the rotating shifts of guardsmen returning from the flood ravaged areas of Worcester and Bristol Counties. Although dry, the austere accommodations made sleep elusive and many Guardsmen performed the labor



intensive duties on four or five hours of rest without complaint.

1st Lt. Jamie Stebbins of Easton, the officer in charge, was proud of his personnel, "Despite the sideways rain, knee deep water and challenging environment, our people accomplished the mission," said Stebbins. "We have motivated people eager to contribute despite the terrible conditions."

Staff Sgt. Karyn Brown of Blandford, was deployed to a team tasked with filling sandbags on day 2. "Barnes has done well. The folks I have been working with have been excellent. They have shown



impressive dedication for a monotonous job," she observed. Despite the uncomfortable aspects of the mission she is proud to be involved. "As soon as we got the call, all of us dropped everything to be here."

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

HELP WANTED!

A member of the Barnes family, SMSgt Dave Moore (retired Aug 2009) is currently fighting Acute Mylogenous Leukemia and may need a donor.



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- All it takes is a few minutes of your time.
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- We FedEx the samples to the Naval Medical Research Lab

When you join the Marrow Registry, you become part of a world-wide network of volunteers willing to save someone's life if you're ever found to be a match. Some people's tissue is so unique that there might only be one match for that person in the whole world. YOU might be someone's miracle match. Signing up to be a potential stem cell donor will enter your information into the National Bone Marrow Registry to possibly benefit Dave and other patients worldwide in need of a lifesaving donor match.

Enlisted Education

By Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Scanlon, HRA

The ANG is making a push this year for members to update their civilian education in their personal records.

The following comes from Chief Master Sgt. Al Nall, the Human Resource Advisor Program Manager at NGB.

"There is a misconception that ANG enlisted members do not have the same level of formal education as their active duty counterparts. Some cite the requirement of CCAF degrees earned by active duty SNCO members as evidence and suggest the ANG enlisted force is under skilled and over graded. Fact: many ANG members, some of whom earned degrees on state tuition assistance benefits, have not officially updated their personnel records to more accurately reflect their educational background. While CCAF degrees are automatically updated in our per-

sonnel system, higher degrees earned outside of our service are not."

Command Chief Master Sgt. Muncy adds: This issue (lead by EFAC) is to show how well trained (military and civilian) that our ANG enlisted force really is. This also helps us to qualify for more positions/duties/responsibilities based on military and civilian skills/education. Currently we still only show about 17% with "any" degrees in the Enlisted force of our ANG. I know it's more, so let's show it. It also helps those states that have tuition assistance to show some "metrics" on completion and "bang for the buck" that your Governors/legislatures are paying for.

Here is how you can help.....

If you are not sure what your education level is being reported

as, you can look it up on Virtual MPF or you contact

me. In order to update your current educational status, bring an official diploma of your highest degree to the Base Education and Training Manager (BETM), Master Sgt. Trish Goodreau. If you have not completed your degree, you can update your records with an official transcript showing how many credits you have completed. The transcript must be officially sent in a sealed envelope from your college or university registrar's office. (Note: this may cost some members a nominal fee).

Hint: Ask your college or university if they will send an official transcript free for military members.

Contact patrick.scanlon@ang.af.mil / ext. 1118



Airmen in Focus - Senior Airman Travis Miller

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Travis Miller joined the Air Force later in life than most of his colleagues in the Medals Technology shop here at the 104th. Being a 29 year old enlistee is never easy. However, he had always been keenly aware of a family military legacy that influenced his decision.

Miller's grandfather was Tech. Sgt. Charlie Samson, a Tail Gunner on a B-24 during World War II. A veteran of several dangerous missions, including the raid on the Ploesti oilfields in Roma-

nia in 1943. He served as a guardsman at the 104th from 1956 to 1977.

As a Metals Technology Craftsman, his duties include the manufacture and repair of equipment metal parts using conventional machining and welding methods. Miller enjoys his work, "The opportunity to complete so many different types of aircraft repairs and supporting other shops allows the F-15 to be ready when called upon. I get to meet unit members throughout the various squadrons on base."



(Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Barnes Upgrades Access Control

By Capt. Mary Harrington, Public Affairs Officer

The 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard base is amongst the first military installations in the nation to implement a new access control system. Called AIECS/VCES (Automated Installation Entry Control System / Visitor Control Enrollment System), the system will manage vehicle access to the base via standard military id cards, also known as CAC cards (Common Access Cards). “Along with Eglin AFB and McDill AFB, Barnes will test this new system over the next year,” said TSgt Dana Thayer, who is overseeing the project implementation at Barnes. “Basically, we pre-register members through a CAC card swipe, which takes about a minute. Thereafter, the ATM-like system located at the gate will recognize the card and allow access.”

A Northrup Grumman contract, the hardware is manufactured by Diebold

and called the Diebold LINX® GateMaster. Diebold says the system was “created to manage entry of vehicles and pedestrians onto a base or other campus setting...GateMaster provides tools that assist in the positive identification of entering personnel and visitors, verification of vehicles and detection of unauthorized entry attempts.” The system is expected to be up-and-running by May 3rd; over the past few months, Tech. Sgt. Thayer and other members of Security Forces have been working hard to register members currently assigned to the 104th Fighter Wing. Retirees and dependents can register at the front gate. Once they’re in the system, they will be able to access the base more readily. In addition to the ATM-like machines, handheld scanners will provide guards the ability to move more vehicles through the gate during high traffic times. At the gate, once the CAC card

is swiped, a green arrow will tell drivers to proceed; otherwise, a red X will show entry denied and a guard will then get involved.

“AIECS/VCES is not replacing our current process, just providing enhanced security,” said Thayer. “The access control system is another layer of protection provided to the base, providing easy access for those registered and 24/7 video surveillance and recording of license plates and driver faces.”



Spring is Here, Stay Safe While You Ride!

By Senior Airman Matthew Benedetti, Public Affairs

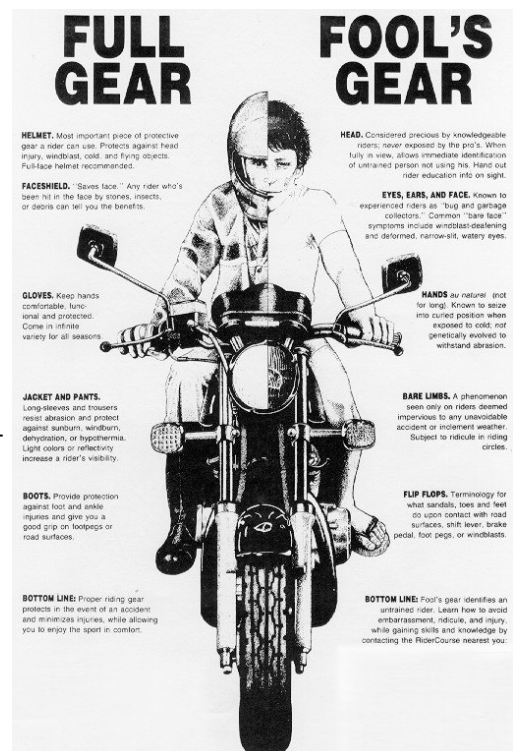
After a long winter, the temperature is finally beginning to rise, the daylight extends past dinner and our collective inclination to venture outside grows by the day.

If you own a motorcycle, the warm temperatures seem like an overdue invitation to dust off the Harley and head out on the open road. But before you saddle up, keep safety in mind. “Always wear your PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), beware of other drivers and make sure you are familiar with the rules of the road,” cautions Master Sgt. Tom Dumais, 104 Ground Safety Manager.

Approximately 10 percent of all Air Force personnel who own a vehicle, have a motorcycle. As well, of the 47 vehicle fatalities among Air Force personnel last year, 20 involved motorcycles. As motorcycle riding season approaches, be mindful of a few safety items.

1. Helmets must be worn by all who operate or ride as a passenger on a motorcycle on a military installation and by military members and by military members while on or off base.
2. Operators must wear eye protection in the form of wraparound glasses, shatter resistant goggles or a full face shield.
3. Riders should wear full gear including motorcycle jackets, pants constructed of abrasion resistant material and sturdy, leather boots.

“Make sure you are seen day and night,” said Dumais. “Always look out for vehicles because they are not looking out for you,” he added.



Holocaust Remembered

National

Days of

Remembrance

April 11–18, 2010

The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims.

This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day is Sunday, April 11, 2010. In commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, the Museum had designated *Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters* as the theme for the 2010 observance.

As Allied soldiers were closing in on Germany in the spring of 1945, they encountered dozens of concentration camps and were suddenly confronted with the reality of Nazi atrocities. The few surviving victims fully experienced the depths of human evil and depravity. For the soldiers, however, even the brutality of war did not prepare them for what they encountered.

Upon seeing Buchenwald a member of the 333rd Engineers Regiment stated, "My feeling was that this was the most shattering experience of my life." A U.S. Army

Stories of Freedom: what you do matters

When I was liberated in 1945 by the American Army, somehow many of us were convinced that at least one lesson will have been learned—that never again will there be war, that hatred is not an option, that racism is stupid . . . I was so hopeful.

—Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, during a June 2009 visit to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp with President Barack Obama, reflecting on his feelings at the moment he was freed

chaplain trying to make sense of the carnage wrote to his wife, "This was a hell on earth if there ever was one." After photographing Buchenwald, Margaret Bourke-White wrote to her editor at Life magazine, "The sights I have just seen are so unbelievable that I don't think I will believe them myself until I've seen the photographs." One American journalist wrote, "Buchenwald is beyond all comprehension. You just can't understand it, even when you've seen it." And that was the problem. Survivors and other eyewitnesses understood and believed. But would the world?

General Dwight D. Eisenhower grasped this problem and, after visiting a subcamp of Buchenwald, he addressed his staff: "I want every American unit not actually in the front lines to see this place. We are told the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now, at least he will know what he is fighting against."

Eisenhower not only understood that this was a war that at its very essence was a struggle for the freedom of peoples and the ideals on which civilization is based but also that the horror was so extreme that it might not be believed.

Realizing that a failure to believe would be a danger for the future of mankind, he ordered other soldiers to visit the camps, and encouraged journalists and members of Congress and the British Parliament to bear witness as well.

He wanted others to be, just as he was, "in a position to give first-hand

evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to propaganda." And ultimately he was right.

Sixty-four years later, standing at Buchenwald with Elie Wiesel by his side, President Barack Obama acknowledged the value of bearing witness: "We are here today because this work is not finished. To this day, there are those who insist that the Holocaust never happened—a denial of fact and truth that is baseless and ignorant and hateful. This place is the ultimate rebuke to such thoughts, a reminder of our duty to confront those who would tell lies about our history."

President Obama referred to the Holocaust as "our history," understanding that Holocaust memory belongs to all of humanity. Because unlike the battle-hardened soldiers who liberated the camps and brought freedom to Europe, we now know that the unthinkable is thinkable. We know all too well the human capacity for evil and the catastrophic consequences of indifference in the face of evil. And we now realize that to preserve human freedom, what we do matters.

Every day each of us has the potential to shape the world in which we live. By keeping these stories of freedom alive and building on Elie Wiesel's original hope, each of us must work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs. As the American soldiers who unwittingly became liberators 65 years ago understood, our future depends on it.

UNITED STATES

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MEMORIAL

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Alert Forces Evaluation

By Major Matthew T. Mutti, Wing Executive Officer

April 6th began with a no-notice inspection as the Alert Forces Evaluation team arrived on base to evaluate the ability of the unit to perform the Air Sovereignty Alert mission.

The alert mission is very unpredictable and spontaneous, and the inspections are done in the same vein. With no notice, a team of inspectors can arrive and evaluate the unit, and that was just the case on April 6th.



F-15s stand alert around the clock, ready to respond within minutes (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

Within minutes of their arrival the evaluation team began running scenarios and exercises to test all the functions of the alert team. The Command Post, Fuels, Munitions, ASA Maintenance, Operations and the alert crews were evaluated on their timeliness to respond and their abilities to recover after an active air scramble.

According to a NORAD press release the exercises utilized scenarios to test NORAD's response, systems and equipment. Scenarios could include counter-drug operations, aircraft in distress, aircraft defecting, hijacking, unknown aircraft, Danger-

ous Military Activity, Temporary Flight Restriction violation or airborne terrorist.

The exercises were conducted in the skies in the vicinity of the West-Central Vermont and Northeastern New York near the area of Glen Falls, N.Y. and Utica, N.Y. These exercises were on the coat-tails of two real-world alert scrambles on April 2nd and 4th, responding to a civilian aircraft that was identified to be in distress.

The inspection lasted two days, beginning with a general observation of the alert procedures and the remainder of the time digging through the regulations and processes in place to ensure continued success.

"The evaluation went very well, said Col. Robert Brooks, 104th Fighter Wing Commander. "The ASA team is well trained and prepared to fulfill this no-fail homeland defense mission, I am very proud of their hard work."

"While the AFE was actually officially not graded, I guarantee had we not performed well, we would not be sitting alert this afternoon."

A unit's first AFE is typically not a graded inspection, but during the out-brief the NORAD team chief indicated that we would have received the highest grade possible. He did warn that the challenge will now be to keep up the momentum and be prepared to pass the proceeding inspections with the same enthusiasm.

The unit officially accepted the ASA mission on February 15th and its members have been on alert ever since.

The wing is scheduled to conduct an official ribbon cutting ceremony on April 10th, where they expect Westfield's Mayor, Dan Knapik, Maj. Gen. Garry Dean, the First Air Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Patrick Moio, the Deputy Director of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Joseph Carter the Adjutant General and Maj. Gen. Michael Akey, the Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

These distinguished guests will



Lt. Col. Jay Davis walks to the alert facility on Feb 15th, one of the first pilots to sit alert at Barnes (photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis)

participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new ASA facilities as well as the expanded Fire Station and Munitions complex. There were many projects completed in order to accept the alert mission, but these three are among the largest single projects. They represent nearly 5 years of planning and execution and a budget of \$30 million.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is observed in April to raise awareness and promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education. The Massachusetts National Guard will participate in the observance of SAAM to further demonstrate our commitment to eliminate sexual assault from the Armed Forces.

During SAAM, the Massachusetts National Guard will build upon the last campaign that focused on bystander intervention by introducing our latest social marketing campaign entitled **"Hurts one. Affects all...Preventing Sexual Assault is everyone's duty."** The purpose of this campaign is to concentrate on the effects sexual assault has on the military's mission readiness. As is readily understood throughout the military, mission readiness defines a unit's ability to deploy quickly and efficiently. A sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by harming the life of the victim, and the military's ability to work effectively as a team.

This year's theme provides SARC and Unit Victim Advocates the opportunity to speak with commanders and senior enlisted leaders about maintaining mission readiness and preventing this crime. **"Hurts One. Affects All"** not only conveys that sexual assault affects the victim; it affects bystanders. As a result, we know from focus groups that preserving mission readiness can serve as motivation for acts of bystander intervention.

Quick FACTS

Sexual Assault is a Readiness issue

- Our mission not only involves national defense, but the defense and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives for our country
- Sexual assault can destroy unit cohesion and is inconsistent with military good order, discipline, and conduct
- The impact that sexual assault has on a victim can be devastating and, without treatment, can have a lasting negative effect on a person's health and resilience.

Sexual Assault Prevention is everyone's duty

- Every service member, starting with senior leadership, must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing the crime of sexual assault
- This research-based prevention strategy is designed to empower service members to act. Training will be given on how to safely intervene in situations where sexual assault may occur
- Commanders and senior enlisted leadership must set the tone in their units that sexual assault will **NOT BE TOLERATED**

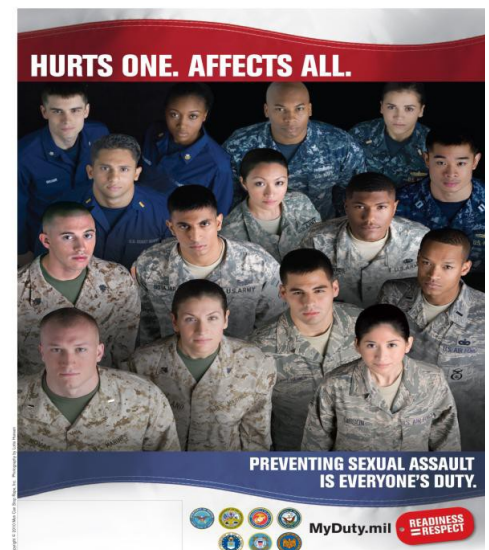
The Massachusetts National Guard is committed to eliminating sexual assault

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center serves as the nation's principle information and resource center regarding all aspects of sexual violence. It provides national leadership, consultation and technical assistance by generating and facilitating the development and flow of information on sexual violence intervention and prevention strategies. The NSVRC works to address the causes and impact of sexual violence through collaboration, prevention efforts and the distribution of resources.

For more information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month visit

<http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>



Cookie Donation to Troops

Brownie Troop 20155 of Wilbraham, MA donated 125 boxes of cookies to the 104th Fighter Wing in March. Six cases of the cookies will be sent to our deployed members overseas, and some will be used here.

Thanks to the following individuals for their generous donation, time and effort.

Brownie Troop 20155: Tammy Roy and Lilly Hakala, Lesley and Emily Tarbell, Claire Casey, Wendy, Paul, Isabelle Labbe, Jen and Sophia Dobosz, Rachel and Taylor Hapgood, Joan and Katie Shea, Christa and Emma Robinson.



Meet Your Family Readiness Board



Front left to right

Pat Connors - Chairperson

Lyn Richards - Secretary

Kneeling Tina Dimino-Frazer - Youth Coordinator,

Sandy Wakefield - Wing Family Coordinator

Cindy Patnode - Treasurer

Missing Beth St.Clair, Co-Chair



Each month one Family Readiness Board Member will be featured

Pat Connors—Chairperson

Pat Connors is the 104th Family Readiness Group Chairperson. Pat has held this position for the past six years but has been a volunteer for several years before taking over as Chairperson. Along with the Board of Directors of the Readiness Group and the volunteers she plans the Easter Egg Hunt, Two Free Pasta Nights, the Halloween/

Haunted Hayride and the Annual Children's Christmas party. The group also has fun(d) raisers to raise money for all the events that are offered to the base. All events are free. Pat has worked fulltime at the 104th Fighter Wing since 1966. She started working as the switchboard operator and was the only female for several years. She had fifteen years military service also

with the 104th Fighter Wing having worked in Intelligence, Base Operations and the Command Post. Pat has two children Cindy and Sean who are also volunteers with the family readiness group and a two year old grandson Brock. The next time you see Pat, stop and introduce yourself.

104th Family Support Group Invites You to Attend

A Tastefully Simple Party

Date: Tuesday, 13 April 2010

Time: 5pm—7pm

Place: NCO Club

Come sample some wonderful and easy recipes.

Bring a guest!

All proceeds benefit the 104th Family Support Group and the Children's Activities throughout the year.

Check out the website to preview the catalog

www.tastefullysimple.com/web/kcallahan

On-line ordering accepted too!

Just be sure to click on the host/event tab and Tina Dimino-Frazer

FMI.Contact:

Pat Connors x1717

Sandy Wakefield x1183

or Tina Dimino-Frazer x1206



For Your Information

Military OneSource Tax Filing Services

Starting January 18, 2010, Military OneSource brings you H&R Block At Home® online tax filing (formerly TaxCut), plus tax consultations by phone — free to service members and their spouses. Tax consultations by phone will be available 7 days a week, 7am -11pm ET.

PLEASE NOTE:

On January 18, 2010, the Military OneSource site will provide a link to the customized H&R Block At Home® product. Please wait until this link is posted on Military OneSource and use that link to access the customized product and create your account.

Do not go to the public H&R Block Web site to create a user account. If you create your account on the H&R Block Web site instead of through the Military OneSource site, the H&R Block system will treat your account as a public account. This means that you will receive the public version of the product instead of the customized Military OneSource product. The public version of H&R Block At Home® is not the same as the customized Military OneSource product, and it is not free. If you create an account through the H&R Block Web site, the H&R Block system will treat your account as a public account even if you access the account in the future through the Military OneSource site. To avoid this problem, please wait until the link is posted to the Military OneSource site.

2010 AF Services Teen Aviation Camp

The camp will be held 5-10 June 2010 at the United State Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, CO. This camp is for high school students entering their sophomore or junior year in the fall of 2010 who are interested in aviation, leadership or the USAFA. Youth who participated in the 2009 Teen Aviation Camp are not eligible to apply this year.

Interested youth must complete the application and apply through their installation Youth Programs, Guard or Reserve Action Officer. For Air National Guard applicants, Ms. Sandra Mason at DSN 278-8138, will conduct the interview and provide the summary of results with the application package and forward to HQ AFSVA/SVPY by 2 April 10.

Airline or POV travel costs to Colorado Springs are the responsibility of the participant or their installation.

All lodging, meals, and program cost will be centrally funded at no cost to the participant or their installation.

All completed applications are due by 19 March 2010 to:

Sandra M. Mason

Child Care and Youth Specialist

NGB/A1SA

3500 Fetchet Avenue

Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5157

DSN: 278-8138

COM: 301-836-8138

If you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail or phone.

Thanks for supporting another great AF Services opportunity for our youth and staff.

St Patrick's Day Parade Thank You



The unit proudly participated in the largest St. Patrick's day parade Holyoke has ever hosted. The unit fielded Hum-ves, fire trucks, operations and maintenance vehicles and more than 30 smiling faces.

A special thanks goes to Chief Steve Murphy for coordinating the effort.

Rick Couture's Retirement Party

**BUFFET STYLE
CATERING BY BUB'S
BBQ
RIBS, CHICKEN,
PULLED PORK AND
ALL THE FIXIN'S**



WHEN: APRIL 16th

TIME: BUFFET AT 1800

WHERE: PIONEER VALLEY CLUB

COST: \$20

**POC: NICK HEBERT X1480 OR
JEFF DUBOIS X1284**

Upcoming Events

Events:

**** April 17, 2010 - The Musical 'Heidi'** will be presented on April 17th at the Westfield Women's Club at 28 Court Street at 6:30 pm.

There will be Champaign reception and Silent auction. The tickets are \$25 each. The proceeds will go to support the Kamp for Kids in Westfield. Contact Maj Mutti for tickets

**** April 17, 2010 - Military Child Appreciation Day** at the Wellesley Armory, 14 Minuteman Lane, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for fun hands on activities to do with your kids ages 5-12. Parents must stay with their children. All military families are welcome. Sponsored by OMK, 4-H and the National Guard Youth Program. Supported by local community organizations. Contact Susan Pixley at 508-233-7290 via email; susan.pixley@us.army.mil or Va Shon Hiltbold 781-891-0650; vwalace@umext.umass.edu for registration information.

**** April 27, 2010 - Westfield State College** will host its 28th Annual

Interfaith Breakfast on Tue, April 27th at 7:30 AM at Scanlon Hall. Tickets are \$20 each. The proceeds support the WSC Interfaith Center. Contact Maj Mutti for tickets

**** June 27th—Federal Executive Association Employee Picnic** at Nonotuck Park, Easthampton Mass. The FEAWM hosts this annual picnic for all Federal Employees and families. The cost is \$8 per person or \$20 for a family. The tickets are for food, games and activities. The deadline to register is Jun 18th. Contact Jessica Burgos at 413.532.0276 for more information

Date: TBD - The Pioneer Valley NCO Club is hoping to host a "Bell of the Ball" father/daughter dance in the near future. We would like to hold this event for two reasons. First, to show respect to the daughters of our members for their support and sacrifices to their fathers of our unit, and secondly as a fund raiser for our upcoming scholarship fund. This would not be a full blown military event, however the dress

would be service dress for members and gowns/dresses for the bells. This event will be catered and there will be a DJ for dancing. Location and date are yet to be determined because we're not sure of attendance numbers as of yet. I ask that you complete a short survey and return to me so I can get a count of how many people would be interested in attending this event. Please contact me for the survey, I'd greatly appreciate it. We here at the PVC are very excited about this and hope you all will feel the same. MSgt Jeffery A. Leigh, ext. 1708.

Services:

****Free H&R TAX Cut software**, available from www.militaryonesource.com

**** Western Mass Golf Season Passes** available from Family Support for \$49.95 contact Sandy Wakefield at sandra.wakefield@ang.af.mil for more information.

Veterans Benefits Available

By Staff Sgt. Rosanne Frieri, Public Affairs

As a veteran with an honorable discharge or returning veteran from an overseas deployment, you may be eligible for veteran's benefits under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. ch. 11). The Commonwealth provides a program of financial and medical assistance for veterans and their dependents.

Qualifying veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, and medical care in accordance with a formula which takes into account the number of

dependents and income from all sources. Eligible dependents of deceased veterans are provided with the same benefits as if the veteran were still living.

How to apply:

The first step to applying is to contact your local Veterans Service Officer in the town or city in which you live. The agent will set up an appointment with you to file an application.

For more information visit the DVS website at www.mass.gov/veterans



Vietnam: Service Remembered

Honoring a Sacrifice and Contribution to Freedom

Deadline for Submissions July 15

To members of the 104th Fighter Wing:

Do you have an immediate family member who served in the “Southeast Asian Theater” during the Vietnam War?

Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle or Aunt?

On Friday night, August 20th, the 104th Fighter Wing would like to honor their service at a special tribute. At this time, seating is limited to the first 300 attendance requests; attendance is limited to the honored veteran, 1 guest and the sponsor. As this is still in work, details and times for Friday evening have yet to be finalized, but will include period music, displays and artifacts from the Vietnam War.

If you have questions regarding the tribute please direct them to:

Master Sgt. Lynne Bolduc, ext 1288 or email: lynne.bolduc@ang.af.mil (invites/guest list)

Chief Master Sgt. Jack Major, ext 1071 or email: john.major@ang.af.mil (overall reception) **Please look for signup sheets in your orderly rooms!!!**



What's My Line Winner!

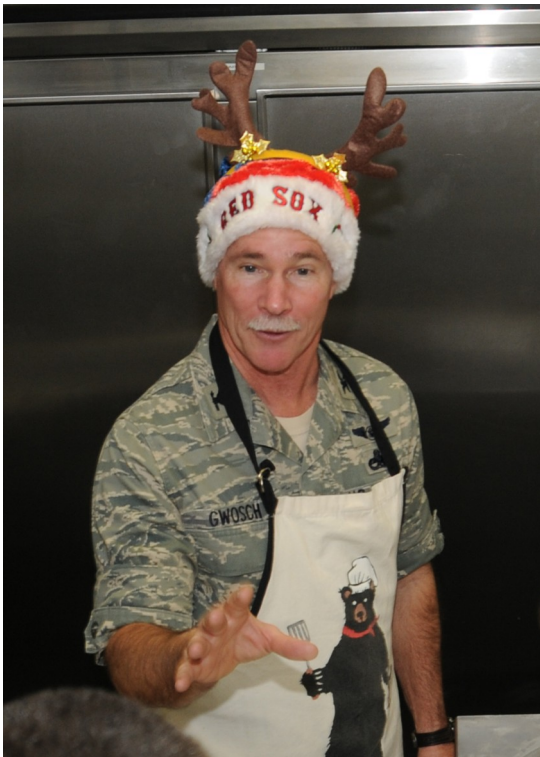


Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Fortin

Last month's winner is:

"I'm telling you, this is an authorized ensemble with this uniform."
Submitted by: TSgt. Anthony DeFranco

Last month's runners-up are:

Yes! The venison is "fresh kill".
Submitted by: CMSgt. Rob Roy

"Not only am I a Red Sox fan, a deer hunter and a bear enthusiast, I'm one heck of a grilled cheese preparer."
Submitted by: SSgt. Ryan Joyce

"If you think this is hot, wait until you see my Cupid outfit for Valentine's Day!"
Submitted by: SSgt. Joshua Darling

"Woe there Tim, I am not a real deer"
Submitted by: MSgt. Timothy Schilling

What's My Line?



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert J. Sabonis

Submit your funny, creative and appropriate caption for the photo on the right. We will run the winner and a runner-up in next months AirScoop.
Submit your entry to: 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

Order of the Musket

By Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Brown, EMF Flight Chief

On Saturday night, 6 February 2010, Major General Richard Platt (ret) received the highest honor the enlisted corps of the 104th Fighter Wing can bestow upon an individual, The Order of the Musket. This is only the second time this award has been presented, the first time being to Major General George Keefe (ret) in October 2005.

Over 230 men and women of the 104FW, both present and past members, attended the gala affair, dressed in their finest mess dress attire, semi-formal attire, and business suits and gowns to honor MG Platt. Holding to the highest standards in tradition, pride, and a sense of duty the 104FW is noted for, over 20 other individuals slated to attend the event remained at Barnes ANGB to work late into the evening repairing aircraft to ensure the new ASA mission was 100% ready to go by midnight. These men and women put personal interests aside to work late that evening and should be congratulated for their dedication to their craft in seeing to the mission first! Thanks to all!!

The event started with our honoree's guests being escorted to their table by Chief Master Sgt. Murphy. The head table, consisting of Maj. Gen. Platt's wife, Lt. Col. Karen Platt, Col. Brooks and his wife Aprile, Lt. Col. Keefe and wife, Yuvone, State Command Chief Master Sgt. Newton, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Reale's wife, Hillary, escorted by Chief Master Sgt. Heller. The Continental Fife & Drum Corp from Colchester CT, playing a revolutionary war tune, accompanied Chief Master Sgt. Reale as he escorted Maj. Gen. Platt to the head table. The Honor Guard posted the colors

and Florence Castonguay sang the National Anthem in A cappella (unaccompanied by music). The Honor Guard performed a stirring POW/MIA ceremony under spot light with the POW/MIA flag hanging on the wall behind them. Prior to dinner,



A replica musket was presented to Gen Platt on 6 February (photo by The. Sgt. Melanie Casineau)

we all sang the Air Force song accompanied by the ANG Band of the Northeast! Needless to say several sang out of key! This would ring true as later in the eve-

ning we sang a rousing rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and a soulful rendition of Auld Lang Syne...where it is widely reported Lt. Col. Karen Platt shed a few tears.

As our incredible speakers, Chief Master Sgt. Reale, Chief Master Sgt. Heller, and Master Sgt. Lynne Bolduc, orated the nights events, the Honor Guard, in true military form, posture, and all due ceremony, posted all the awards Maj. Gen. Platt received to various well timed and historic revolutionary war tunes played by the very talented Continental Fife & Drum Corp of Colchester CT.

Speaking of outstanding orators, suffice it to say that Maj. Gen. Platt still has what it takes to give pertinent, fact-filled, blood warming speeches laced with jokes, attention-grabbing points, and much sincerity. He has always been known for his ability to speak very well and inspire his audience and did not disappoint. He spoke of his utmost respect and trust he had of the enlisted corps, which comprises over 60% of our military forces.

He poignantly mentioned that every poll since 1998 has shown the number one organization trusted by the American people, and by a very wide margin, was the US military. He talked about the four "Cs"; competence, consistency, commitment and compassion, which many of you may have heard before and of trusting and listening to your enlisted force, including the youngest Airman in the unit. If you listen to them, you will know where the problems are. He also spoke of family, and of keeping your family a priority in your lives. Lastly, he was deeply honored to be recommended by the enlisted force to receive this prestigious award.



"It all comes down to the four 'Cs'; Competence, Consistency, Commitment and Compassion,"
Said Maj. Gen. Platt

Several toasts were lifted in honor to the President of the US, the Governor of Massachusetts, the 104FW Commander, our honoree and more. In the end,

many individuals were recognized and thank for their efforts putting the event together. The Fife & Drum corps departed with one last tune. The line to congratulate Maj. Gen. Platt was lengthy as all stepped up to shake his hand and express their personal thanks for all he has done for our unit.

All-in-all it was a long night that seemed shorter than actuality, in large part due to the camaraderie that is the 104FW.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Tiffany Slaven	MOF
Michael Nevue	FSS
Tyler Cullen	MXS

Congratulations to our Retirees

Crowley, Edmund	FW	13 Mar 10
Walaszek, Gerald	MOF	13 Apr 10
Moriarty, Matthew	LRS	6 May 10
Viamari, Gino	MXS	10 May 10
Buckowski, Richard	LRS	14 May 10
Baker, Richard	FSS	1 Jun 10
Daniels, John	SFS	31 Jul 10
Pisano, Douglas	SFS	31 Jul 10
Belbin, Timothy	MXS	30 Aug 10

104th FW CES First Sgt. Opening

Grade: E-7 / Master Sgt.

Unit: 104th Civil Engineering Squadron

Supervisor: 104th Civil Engineering Squadron Commander

Application deadline: 19 Apr 10 / Board: 2 May 10

Submit applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc.) via e-mail to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil
104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 15 Apr 2010

For more information contact: Chief Master Sgt. Al Reale at albert.reale@us.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1778

104th FW MXS First Sgt. Opening

Grade: E-7 / Master Sgt.

Unit: 104th Maintenance Squadron

Supervisor: 104th Maintenance Squadron Commander

Estimated Date of Assignment: 1 Jun 10

Board date: TBD

Submit applications via electronic format (word, pdf, etc.) via e-mail to: Maj. Dave Mendoza, david.mendoza@ang.af.mil
104FW/DP, NLT 1200, 15 Apr 2010

For more information contact: Chief Master Sgt.. Al Reale at albert.reale@us.af.mil or 413-568-9151 x1778

Congratulations on your Promotions

To Senior Airman (E-4)

Airman 1st Class Sorensen 104 AMXS

Airman 1st Class Prouty, 104 AMXS

Airman 1st Class Duval, 104 FSS

Airman 1st Class Hoffman, 104 AMXS



To Technical Sgt. (E-6)

Staff Sgt. Decormier, 104 AMXS



To Senior Master Sgt. (E-8)

Master Sgt. Midwood, AMXS



To Chief Master Sgt. (E-9)

Senior Master Sgt. Roy, AMXS



Air Show News

How would you like to ride in the back seat of a Thunderbird aircraft in conjunction with the Westfield International Air Show?



The Thunderbirds now offer a program called the 'Home Town Hero' program, where they take a deserving member of the community on an orientation ride the Friday before the show.

If you know someone who deserves an opportunity like this, please contact the public affairs office at 104fw.pa@ang.af.mil

This Month in History

The back cover of the Airscoop will now be dedicated to the history of the unit and the Air Force. We will feature historic covers or articles from the archives and highlight a few historic headlines. (side note) From 1947 to 1954 the Base Newspaper was named the Thunderbolt. The first official Copy of the Airscoop was published in January 1954.

APRIL HEADLINES:

April 1917

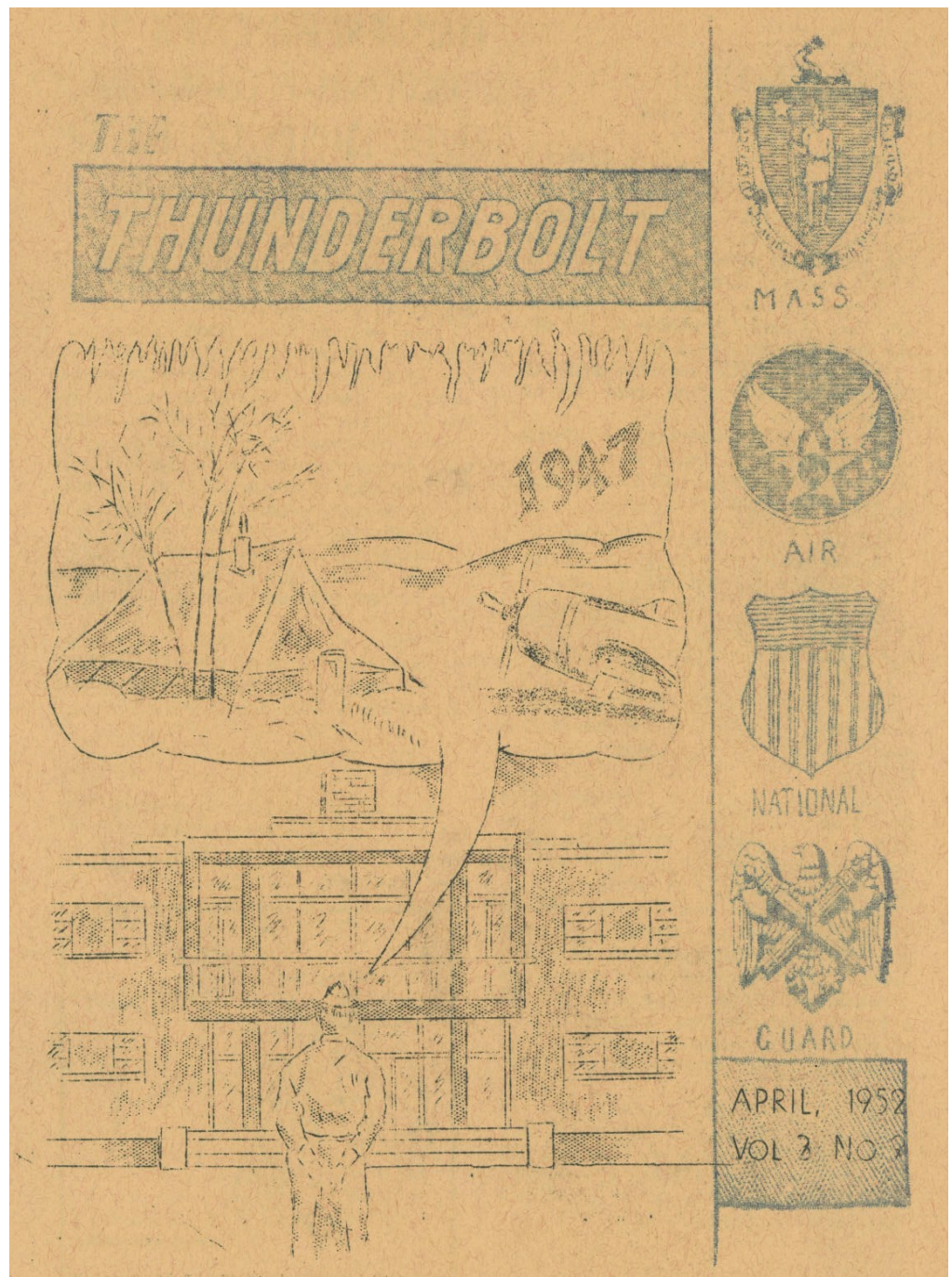
The U.S. declared war on Germany. Army and Navy air strength included 179 officers, 1,317 enlisted men, 350 aircraft and a few balloons. A day later, the Army's Aviation Section boasted 65 officers, including 35 pilots. The De Havilland DH-4 bomber was the only U.S. produced airplane used in combat, mostly in an observation role, during the war.

April 1943

A P-47 Thunderbolt flew its first combat sortie over Western Europe.

April 1946

The first Meeting of the 131st Fighter Squadron occurred at the Holyoke Gas and Electric Building. 25 local pilots who saw action in World War II wanted to fly here in Massachusetts. Six months later Barnes was selected to base 25 P-47s, thus the beginning of the 104th Fighter Wing.



MASSACHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Barnes Air National Guard Base
175 Falcon Drive
Westfield, MA 01805

Phone: (413) 568-9151
Fax: (413) 572-1515
E-mail: 104fw.PA@ang.af.mil
Official Web: www.104fw.ang.af.mil

Social Media Sites:

www.facebook.com/barnesang
www.twitter.com/104fighterwing
www.flickr.com/photos/barnesangb
www.westfieldairshow.net



PRIDE.

PROFESSIONALISM.

PATRIOTISM

We're on the Web
WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

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